

**Friday, 3 March 2006**

**Media Release : Barnardos in unique position to help children thrive**

“Barnardos is in a unique position to help children thrive,” says Sally Babington, the organisation’s new Regional Manager for the lower half of the North Island.

“As the country’s largest child-focused not-for-profit/charitable organisation, we cover the spectrum, from early childhood education and care to a variety of child and family services.”

“This means that as well as helping children benefit from access to quality early childhood education and care, we can also encourage and support their parents so they have positive and healthy relationships with their children, through our parent education programmes, and other customised child and family services.”

This integrated approach to improving the outcomes for children, was a major drawcard for Sally, who has substantial qualifications and extensive experience in both the education and social service sectors.

“The opportunity to pull together my experience across both sectors for the benefit of children is really exciting,” says Sally.

“Research shows that the early years of a child are critical for future development. We also know that parenting is as challenging as it can be rewarding. Many parents are on a steep learning curve, often without good role models or support. And this cuts across all sectors of society.”

“Barnardos isn’t interested in being the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff,” says Sally. “We want to work with children and their families as early as possible, so that potential or existing problems can be nipped in the bud, and children can be nurtured, treasured and able to fulfil their potential.”

As Regional Manager, Central, Sally has overall responsibility for Barnardos early childhood services (KidStart home-based care and learning and in Wellington, Number One Nannies) and child and family services, in Wellington and the Hutt Valley, Wairarapa, Manawatu, Wanganui, Taranaki, Hawke’s Bay and Gisborne.

She has held management positions in the Ministry of Education and the Department of Child, Youth and Family, was a reintegration coordinator for sex offenders at Rolleston Prison, a hands-on social worker, and a counsellor for Barnardos in Kaiapoi (in 1995). Sally was most recently Director of Special Needs at The Correspondence School in Wellington.

Her qualifications include a Masters of Arts (applied) in Social Work, a Child Protection Certificate and a Master of Education. She is currently completing a Master of Business Administration through Victoria University.

Sally is based at Barnardos House in Wellington and available for media interviews.

ENDS

**To arrange an interview or for more details contact:**

Penny Gaylor, Barnardos Communications Manager

Telephone: (04) 385 7560 or 0272 711 611

Email: [penny.gaylor@barnardos.org.nz](mailto:penny.gaylor@barnardos.org.nz)

[www.barnardos.org.nz](http://www.barnardos.org.nz)

**Additional notes and possible story ideas overleaf:**

### **Additional notes and possible story ideas:**

- Barnardos is New Zealand's largest not-for-profit/charitable children's organisation. Over the last year the organisation has reviewed both its strategic direction and the services it provides. As a result Barnardos has reinforced its ambition, to improve the outcomes for children in New Zealand, by delivering first-rate professional integrated and child-focused social and educational services in communities across the country.

- Sally Babington's arrival coincides with the roll out of a new case management system, SCARF - Supporting Children and Responding to Families, across Barnardos family support service.

SCARF is a child focused assessment that embraces a holistic approach towards meeting the needs of the child. Instead of an over emphasis on the presenting problems it will support an early intervention approach by looking at underlying causes with a view to encouraging positive changes. The SCARF model recognises the strengths and resources that exist within the child's own surroundings.

It is adapted from the United Kingdom's 'Children in Need and their Families Assessment and Planning Framework' used extensively throughout Britain and by Barnardos in Australia. Barnardos is the first agency to adopt (adapt) it for use in New Zealand.

- Its Child and Family Services include parenting education programmes, the Family Support Service, Supervised Child Contact Service, counselling for children who have witnessed or been victims of domestic violence, Foster Care and Social Workers in Schools.

- Its Early Childhood Education and Care Services are KidStart home-based care and learning, Early Learning Centres and Number One Nannies (Wellington only). Barnardos also runs Out of School Care and Recreation programmes (after-school and school holiday programmes) in Waitakere, Gisborne and Nelson.

- Barnardos established and runs Te Poutama Arahi Rangatahi (in Christchurch), a residential treatment centre for adolescents who have sexually abused (under contract to Child, Youth and Family).